

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 are amended; Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 7-9 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

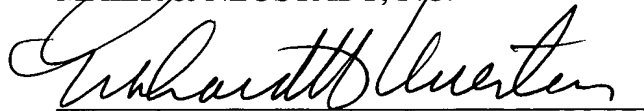
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,329,094 to Yasuo et al.; Claims 1 and 2 were allowed; and Claim 5 was indicated as allowable.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In view thereof, Claims 3 and 4 are amended to depend from allowable Claims 2 and 1, respectively. Claim 5 and new Claims 7-9 (which correspond to Claim 5) depend from Claims 1-4, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-5 and new Claims 7-9 are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

EHK/STD/kke

I:\ATTY\STD\24\S\247679US\247679US.AM1.DOC